HLS 14RS-1075 ENGROSSED

Regular Session, 2014

HOUSE BILL NO. 407

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BY REPRESENTATIVES CARTER, SMITH, AND KATRINA JACKSON

STUDENT/SCH ATTENDANCE: Provides relative to eligibility criteria for admission or readmission to a public school and prohibits the denial of admission or readmission based on certain characteristics

AN ACT

| 2 | To amend and reenact R.S. 17:221(B), relative to school attendance; to provide relative to |
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| 3 | eligibility criteria for admission or readmission to a public school; to prohibit city, |
| 4 | parish, and other local public school boards from denying admission or readmission |
| 5 | based on certain characteristics; and to provide for related matters. |
| 6 | Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana: |
| 7 | Section 1. R.S. 17:221(B) is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows: |
| 8 | §221. School attendance; compulsory ages; duty of parents; excessive absences; |
| 9 | condition for driving privileges |
| 10 | * * * |
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| 11 | B.(1) No A city, parish, or other local public school board shall deny grant |
| 11 12 | B. $\underline{(1)}$ No \underline{A} city, parish, or other local public school board shall $\underline{\text{deny}}$ grant admission or readmission to school of $\underline{\text{to}}$ any student of suitable age who resides |
| | |
| 12 | admission or readmission to school of to any student of suitable age who resides |
| 12 13 | admission or readmission to school of to any student of suitable age who resides within the geographic boundaries of the school system unless such student is legally |
| 12 13 14 | admission or readmission to school of to any student of suitable age who resides within the geographic boundaries of the school system unless such student is legally excluded from attending school. person who meets all of the following criteria: |

CODING: Words in struck through type are deletions from existing law; words <u>underscored</u> are additions.

| 1 | (c) Is nineteen years of age or younger on September thirtieth of the calendar |
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| 2 | year in which the school year begins or is twenty years of age on September thirtieth |
| 3 | of the calendar year in which the school year begins and has sufficient course credits |
| 4 | that he will be able to graduate within one school year of admission or readmission. |
| 5 | (d) Has not received a high school diploma or its equivalent. |
| 6 | (e) Is otherwise eligible for enrollment in a public school pursuant to state |
| 7 | law and the policies of the local school board and the State Board of Elementary and |
| 8 | Secondary Education. |
| 9 | (2) If a person meets all of the criteria in Paragraph (1) of this Subsection, |
| 10 | no city, parish, or other local public school board may deny him admission or |
| 11 | readmission based on any of the following characteristics: |
| 12 | (a) The person voluntarily withdrew from school. |
| 13 | (b) The person is pregnant. |
| 14 | (c) The person is a parent. |
| 15 | (d) The person is married. |
| 16 | (3) The admission or readmission of a person who will be twenty years of |
| 17 | age on September thirtieth of the calendar year in which the school year begins shall |
| 18 | be limited to grade twelve. |
| 19 | (4) The admission or readmission of any person who has been suspended or |
| 20 | expelled from a Louisiana public school is subject to all laws and policies applicable |
| 21 | to such disciplinary actions. |
| 22 | (5) The admission or readmission of a person with an exceptionality is |
| 23 | subject to federal and state law governing the age of eligibility for services for |
| 24 | students with exceptionalities. |
| 25 | * * * |

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

Carter HB No. 407

Abstract: Provides eligibility criteria for admission or readmission to a public school and prohibits a school board from denying admission or readmission based on certain characteristics.

<u>Present law</u> prohibits a public school board from denying admission or readmission to school to any student of suitable age who resides within the geographic boundaries of the school system unless such student is legally excluded from attending school.

<u>Proposed law</u> requires a public school board to grant admission or readmission to school to any person who meets all of the following criteria:

- (1) Resides within the geographic boundaries of the school system.
- (2) Meets the eligibility requirements for school entrance pursuant to <u>present law</u>, which requires that a child be six by Sept. 30 of the calendar year in which the school year begins in order to enter the first grade of any public school.
- (3) Is 19 or younger on Sept. 30 of the calendar year in which the school year begins or is 20 on Sept 30 and has sufficient credit to graduate within a year.
- (4) Has not received a high school diploma or its equivalent.
- (5) Is otherwise eligible for enrollment in a public school pursuant to <u>present law</u> and the policies of the local public school board and the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE).

<u>Proposed law</u> prohibits school boards from denying admission or readmission to a person if he:

- (1) Withdrew from school.
- (2) Is pregnant.
- (3) Is a parent.
- (4) Is married.

<u>Proposed law</u> requires that the admission or readmission of a person who is 20 be limited to grade 12.

<u>Proposed law</u> further provides that the admission or readmission of any person who has been suspended or expelled from a La. public school is subject to all laws and policies applicable to such disciplinary actions and that the admission or readmission of a person with an exceptionality is subject to federal and state law governing the age of eligibility for services for students with exceptionalities.

(Amends R.S. 17:221(B))

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Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

Committee Amendments Proposed by <u>House Committee on Education</u> to the <u>original</u> bill.

- 1. Adds provision relative to applicability of federal and state law to the admission or readmission of a person with an exceptionality.
- 2. Adds the course credit condition on the requirement for admission of 20 year olds.